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## TURKEY.

*Report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 237.]

*Sanitary condition of Turkey—Plague in Yemen.*CONSTANTINOPLE, *January 24, 1900.*

SIR: According to an official report dated Assyr, November 25 (old style), December 7, 1899, bubonic plague has broken out at Beni-Shehir. It is stated that 15 persons have been already its victims. Beni-Shehir is in the Yemen on the island near Confondah (Red Sea). As a consequence of said report, which reached Constantinople only five days ago, the superior sanitary commission has been convoked to a special meeting in which it has been decided that one physician shall be sent to Beni-Shehir, and one to Confondah, and that passengers and ships coming from said places shall undergo a twenty-four hours' quarantine in order to have their wearing apparel disinfected.

*General sanitary news.*

The sanitary news from the other provinces is good, which means that there is no plague nor cholera. From Salonica the sanitary physician reports, under date November 11, 1899, that the prevailing diseases are malaria, whooping cough, mumps, and laryngitis. From Dedeazatch, under same date, is reported the existence of scarlet fever, which, as well as diphtheria, is present also at Serres, Drama, and Cavalla.

*Mortality in provincial cities.*

I am able to give the number of deaths registered in the different provincial cities. In the city of Aleppo there were 54 deaths registered during the month of September, and 54 during that of October. In Samsusa during the month of September, 13 deaths. During the same month 14 deaths in Dardanelles, where for the month of October 33 deaths were registered, and 12 at Samsusa. At Beirut there were registered for the month of September 37 deaths, and 49 for the month of October. In Smyrna during the month of October 228 deaths were registered. At Cavalla for the same month 50 deaths were registered.

*Pilgrims at Djiddah—Scarcity of water.*

The number of deaths registered in Djiddah is, for the month of August, 63, 54 for the month of September, and 58 for the month of October. The authorities cable from the latter town that there is great anxiety there on account of the want of water. The number of pilgrims already arrived in said town is about 10,000, and there is no water. I have the honor to forward the following inclosures:

1. A statement of the number of pilgrims passing through Djiddah, and the necessary quantity of water.

2. A French copy of the communication of the French sanitary commissioner concerning the establishment of the Institut Pasteur, on which I have already laid stress in my previous reports. I have already reported that the British sanitary commissioner is opposed to said establishment.

3. The French copy of the communication of the Austrian sanitary representative concerning the transportation of pilgrims to Djiddah, in

which communication stress is laid on the abuses of the ship captains and agents.

4. A table showing the monthly number of deaths from plague registered in the city of Bombay during the years 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

5. A French copy of the Teskeré, announcing the appearance of plague at Beni-Shehir in Yemen.

6. The decision of the superior sanitary commission relative to quarantine of passengers and ships coming from Confondah.

7. The epizootic bulletin.

*Report from Teheran.*

The sanitary report of the sanitary commissioner at Teheran states that in that town typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and mumps prevail. He states, also, that articles of food are getting dear. Bread, for instance, which was sold at  $\frac{1}{2}$  kran, now is sold for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  krans.

*Sanitary condition of Constantinople.*

The sanitary condition of Constantinople is not improving, though I must state that the weather is rather good and temperature mild. Typhoid fever is always prevailing as well as diphtheria, the latter being rather of mild character. Besides said epidemics there are those of influenza and whooping cough. The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from the 1st to the 22d instant is 784, of which 1 was from scarlet fever, 1 from smallpox, 6 were from measles, 9 were from diphtheria, 22 were from typhoid fever, and 50 were from inflammation of the respiratory system.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,  
*United States Sanitary Commissioner.*

[Inclosures.—Translated in this Bureau.]

No. 3.—*Communication made at the session of the council, January 9, 1900, by Dr. Mally, delegate from Austria-Hungary.*

The physician in the Government service of Bosnia, Dr. Théophile Koetschett, who accompanied the pilgrims from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, has presented his observations on the conditions of this pilgrimage in the form of a report submitted to his Government. He commends the quarantine appointments at Clazomenes, but notes the crowding of pilgrim vessels, notwithstanding the repeated complaints of the Austrian Government and that it is in direct violation of existing regulations. The number of pilgrims that may be embarked on any one vessel has been fixed, by international agreement, according to the capacity of the vessel. Crowding is inadmissible at ordinary times, viz, when no epidemic disease is prevailing. It is absolutely forbidden during quarantine periods, and when an epidemic, as for example plague, prevails at the port of departure. It is usually vessels flying the English flag which break this regulation.

The report in question particularly denounces the English steamer *Hoseinée*, which arrived May 8, 1899, at Tor, carrying 900 pilgrims, although she had scarcely a capacity for 700. The hygienic condition of this vessel was very objectionable. Between decks the atmosphere was mephitic and the temperature unbearable. Many deaths occurred during the short voyage from Djiddah to El Tor, at which place a large number of sick were entered at the hospital. On the arrival of the *Hoseinée* at Clazomenes the landing of the pilgrims was delayed two days on account of the number of Russian pilgrims occupying the lazaretto.

A revolt broke out on the vessel caused by the exorbitant price charged by the cook for articles of food. In conclusion, Dr. Koetschett attributes the somewhat high mortality at Clazomenes to the fact that a large number of sick pilgrims are taken on at El Tor.

The attention of the council is called to these deplorable facts with the request that severe measures be taken to prevent their recurrence.

No. 4.—*Table of plague cases and deaths at Bombay City from September, 1896, to December 31, 1899.*

Months.	1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
January.....			2,031	1,599	2,627	2,397	1,809	1,524
February.....			3,137	3,060	4,746	4,549	3,476	3,038
March.....			2,241	2,021	4,349	4,549	5,119	4,344
April.....			1,240	1,116	3,170	2,518	3,706	2,856
May.....			266	255	690	430	1,133	912
June.....			176	90	349	138	296	266
July.....			54	32	381	285	286	247
August.....			144	83	595	506	362	305
September.....	<i>a</i> 126	<i>b</i> 114	199	155	857	619	538	349
October.....	268	245	326	208	1,002	817	561	415
November.....	391	284	354	236	261	195	747	543
December.....	1,477	1,048	654	536	657	542	1,400	761
Total.....	2,662	1,691	10,821	9,391	19,685	17,575	19,433	15,760

*a* September 29.*b* October 4.

## RECAPITULATION.

Year of 1896, 2,262 cases, 1,691 deaths; year of 1897, 10,822 cases, 9,391 deaths; year of 1898, 19,685 cases, 17,575 deaths; year of 1899, 19,433 cases, 15,760 deaths; totals, 52,202 cases, 44,417 deaths.

No. 5.—*Teskeré of his excellency the first secretary of the palace to the sanitary department, January 17, 1900.*

The mutessarif of Ossyr, having reported the appearance of plague at Beni-Shehir, at which place 15 persons died of the disease, the Vali of Yemen draws attention to the necessity for sending 2 physicians from the Hedjaz to Ossyr. His Majesty the Sultan, however, considering the advisability of sending a specialist has ordered the question to be referred to the superior council of health which shall report on it as soon as possible to the imperial chancellery.

No. 6.—*Circular telegram to health officers, January 20, 1900.*

By decision of the superior council of health a twenty-four hours' quarantine of observation is ordered for arrivals from Confondah (Red Sea), with disinfection of clothing and effects of passengers and crew at the lazaretto of Camaran and Abou-Saad.

Dr. COZZONIS,  
Inspector-General.

No. 7.—*Epizootic Bulletin.*

SALONICA, December 23, 1899.

The sheep pox which prevailed at Rahobka, district of Drama, is extinct. It has, however, appeared at Viranoftcha, district of Kenprulu, and at Kapoudgilar, in the neighborhood of Salonica.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 27, 1899.

Cases of glanders continue to be noticed in many parts of the city and suburbs.

## FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CANADA—*Hamilton*.—Month of January, 1900. Estimated population, 53,000. Total number of deaths, 42, including enteric fever, 2, and 4 from tuberculosis.

Quebec—*Sherbrooke*.—Month of January, 1900. Estimated population, 11,898. Total number of deaths, 16, including 1 from whooping cough.

CUBA—*Havana*.—Month of January, 1900. Estimated population, 220,000. Total number of deaths, 498, including diphtheria, 2; enteric